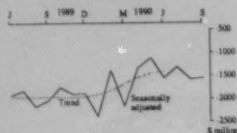


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 8 November 1990

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Current account deficit turns down 2
- ☐ Educational attainment surges to record levels 3
- ☐ Oil prices cause large increase in prices of manufacturing materials 4
- ☐ Meat production shows strong rise 4
- ☐ Small increases in prices for house building materials 5
- ☐ All the week's releases 6
- ☐ Calendar of key releases up to 20 November 7
- ☐ The latest ...
 - key State indicators 7
 - key national indicators 8

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT

Current account deficit turns down

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the balance of payments current account deficit for September 1990 fell \$31 million to \$1,549 million, following an increase of \$263 million in August.

Mainly responsible for the September outcome were falls of \$47 million and \$142 million in the deficits on merchandise trade and net services respectively, and an increase of \$28 million in the surplus on net unrequited transfers.

These positive movements were largely offset by an increase of \$186 million, or 15 per cent, in the net income deficit, which has for some time been the most significant component of the overall current account deficit. Net income received from abroad fell \$44 million in September, while net income payable abroad (mainly interest payments) rose by \$142 million.

The lower merchandise trade deficit was the result of a fall of 1 per cent in exports and 3 per cent in imports.

In original terms, the current account deficit fell \$382 million. A turnaround (to a surplus) in the balance on merchandise trade and a lower net services deficit more than offset a higher net income deficit combined with a lower net unrequited transfers surplus.

Rural exports fell \$113 million, or 10 per cent, with the largest falls being in 'other rural' and sugar. Non-rural exports fell \$188 million, or 6 per cent, with the highest falls recorded in coal and other mineral fuels. Imports fell \$756 million, or 17 per cent, with the major falls being in transport equipment (mainly civil aircraft and road vehicles), 'other manufactures', 'other imports' and machinery.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT
\$ million

	August 1990		September 1990	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	-385	-71	70	-24
Net services	-468	-413	-406	-271
Net income	-1,263	-1,278	-1,386	-1,464
Net unrequited transfers	222	182	210	210
Balance on current account	-1,894	-1,580	-1,512	-1,549

Given the volatile nature of monthly balance of payments figures (even after seasonal adjustment) it is useful to note that the ABS trend series has shown a decline in the current account deficit for seven successive months to June 1990. Trend estimates for more recent months are not available.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia (5301.0)*, or contact either Alan Puckeridge on (06) 252 6689 or Zia Abbasi on (06) 252 5540.

Educational attainment surges to record levels

Forty per cent of Australian civilians aged 15 to 69 had at least one post-school qualification in February this year, according to the annual survey of educational attainment.

This estimate of 4,699,000 persons was 5 percentage points higher than the 1985 estimate. Conversely the figure for persons without post-school qualifications (6,534,000) had dropped 5 percentage points in the same period from 60 per cent to 55 per cent. (The remainder were still at school).

In absolute terms, these figures represent a dramatic 24 per cent increase in the number of people with post-school qualifications, compared with a one per cent increase in those without such qualifications — in the relatively short period of five years.

In 1990 there were 987,700 persons with degrees, 1,557,500 with trade qualifications, 2,089,700 with a certificate or diploma and 64,100 who had some other type of post-school educational qualification.

Employed persons with post-school qualifications, who had represented 27 per cent of the population in 1985, had increased to 31 per cent in the 1990 survey. Employed persons without post-school qualifications were recorded at 33 per cent for both years.

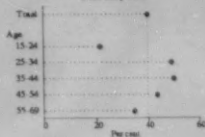
The family status estimates revealed 3.6 million husbands of whom 55 per cent reported attaining a post-school qualification, as did 36 per cent of wives. For the first time in this survey information relating to sole parents was collected. These numbered 360,200 with 37 per cent reported having attained a qualification since leaving school.

Under the survey definition of family status there were 1,420,700 persons who were not members of a family, with a relatively high 45 per cent of these holding post-school qualifications.

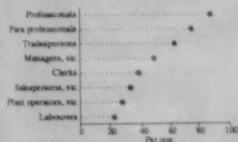
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
Persons aged 15 to 69
'000

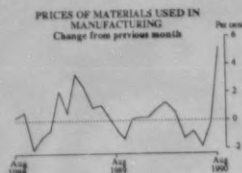
	February	
	1985	1990
With post-school qualifications	3,803.3	4,699.0
Degree	782.4	987.7
Trade qualification	2,889.1	1,557.5
Certificate or diploma		2,089.7
Other		64.1
Without post-school qualifications	6,475.6	6,534.0
Still at school	469.2	565.3
All persons	10,748.1	11,798.4

PERSONS WITH POST-SCHOOL
QUALIFICATIONS
February 1990



EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH POST-SCHOOL
QUALIFICATIONS, 1990





Oil prices cause large increase in prices of manufacturing materials

The price indexes of materials used in manufacturing industries increased by 5.2 per cent in August 1990 the largest monthly increase since September 1986.

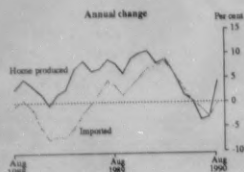
The large increase was mainly due to significantly higher prices for imported and domestic crude petroleum, reflecting the large jump in world oil prices.

Prices for home produced materials recorded an increase of 6.7 per cent in August. This was caused mainly by increased prices for domestic crude petroleum, partly offset by decreases in other materials especially agricultural materials such as sheep and lambs, sugar, wheat and oranges.

The increase for imported materials of 2.2 per cent also resulted mainly from increased prices for crude petroleum. However, because of shipment lags, the full effect of the recent world oil price increases is not yet fully reflected in the index.

Over the year to August prices of materials used in manufacturing increased by 2.7 per cent, reversing the trend over the previous 5 months of declining annual rates of increase.

The table below shows the impact of these price movements on imported and home produced materials.

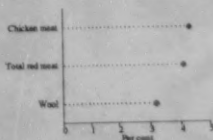


PRICE INDEXES OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, AUGUST 1990
Percentage change

Source of material	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Imported	2.2	-0.2
Home produced	6.7	4.3
All manufacturing	5.2	2.7

For further information, order the publication *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS
Change September 1989 to September 1990



Meat production shows strong rise

Production of both red meat and chicken meat rose in September 1990 and both categories were well above 1989 levels for the September quarter.

Total red meat production in the three months to 30 September 1990 was almost 681,000 tonnes, 4 per cent higher than for the same period last year. The main contributors to this increase were beef (up 4.9%), mutton (up 9.1%) and veal (up 10.5%), while lamb recorded a 4.5 per cent decline.

In the month of September more than 23 million chickens were killed, yielding 30,305 tonnes of chicken meat. For the September quarter, chicken meat production increased 5.1 per cent to almost 94,000 tonnes, compared with the same period last year.

Receipts of taxable wool in September increased by 21.5 per cent in original terms (8.1 per cent seasonally adjusted) over August and by 3.2 per cent over September 1989. However, receipts for the three months to 30 September were down 6 per cent on the same period last year.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, SEPTEMBER 1990
Percentage change

	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Cattle slaughtered	0.1	4.3
Calves slaughtered	-27.9	15.5
Sheep and lambs slaughtered	6.3	-1.2
Pigs slaughtered	-2.4	-0.8
Total red meat production	2.6	4.1
Chickens slaughtered	4.5	4.3
Chicken meat produced	1.4	4.3
Taxable wool receipts	21.5	3.2

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Bronwyn Brown on (06) 252 5337.

Small increases in prices for house building materials

Prices for house building materials recorded a modest increase of 0.3 per cent in August 1990, resulting in a continuing decline in the annual rate to 5.9 per cent for the year to August.

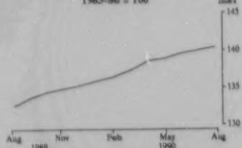
The August increase reflects small increases in a wide range of materials. The main price increases were for ready mixed concrete in all cities except Adelaide and Perth, clay bricks in all cities except Brisbane, Melbourne and Hobart, and structural steel in all cities except Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE BUILDING, AUGUST 1990
Percentage change

City	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.1	5.3
Melbourne	0.2	5.1
Brisbane	0.4	6.0
Adelaide	0.1	6.8
Perth	0.7	7.7
Hobart	0.3	6.1
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	5.9
Canberra	-0.1	4.5

For further information order the publication *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra* (6408.0), or contact Peter Sturgeon on (06) 252 6198.

HOUSE BUILDING MATERIAL PRICES
1985-86 = 100



Change from previous month



Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
TEL (06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Subscriptions

To subscribe to *Statistics Weekly* or any other ABS printed publication, phone the ABS Subscription Service toll-free on (008) 020608 or (008) 020546, or contact Information Services at any of the offices above.

Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

All the week's releases: 31 October to 6 November

General

Statistics Weekly, 1 November 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, October 1990 (1305.1; \$12.50)
Economic Indicators, NSW, October 1990 (1307.1; \$3.30)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Vic., October 1990 (1303.2; \$8.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, October 1990 (1304.3; \$8.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, October 1990 (1305.5; \$8.00)
Economic Indicators, WA, October 1990 (1307.5; \$5.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, October 1990 (1303.4; \$8.00)

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, WA, June 1989 (3203.5; \$12.50)
Births, SA, 1989 (3301.4; \$7.50)
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, ACT, June 1989 (3207.8; \$8.00)

Social statistics

Higher Courts: Criminal Matters, SA, 1988 (4502.4; \$7.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., September 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)
Foreign Investment, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (5306.0; \$15.00)
Imports, Australia, Annual Summary Tables, 1989-90 (5426.0; \$16.50)
Exports, Australia, Monthly Summary Tables, August 1990 (5432.0; \$8.00)
Expenditure on Education, Aust., 1987-88 (5510.0; \$7.50)
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., September 1990 (5635.0; \$3.30)
Commercial Finance, Aust., July 1990 (5643.0; \$5.00)
General Financiers and Other Financial Corporations: Assets, Liabilities, Income and Expenditure, Aust., 1988-89 (5648.0; \$5.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., September 1990 (6203.0; \$13.00)
Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Aust., February 1990 (6235.0; \$12.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., August 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)

Agriculture

Australian Farming in Brief, 1990 (7106.0; free)
Livestock Products, Aust., September 1990 (7215.0; \$5.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Food, Drink, Tobacco and Stock and Poultry Food, Aust., July 1990 (8359.0; \$8.50)
Production of Building Materials and Fittings, Aust., August 1990 (8361.0; \$5.50)
Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (8782.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Census: Summary Statistics, NSW, 1988-89 (8206.1; \$4.50)
Building Approvals, Qld, September 1990 (8731.3; \$8.50)
Building Approvals, WA, September 1990 (8731.5; \$8.00)
Tourist Accommodation, SA, June Qtr 1990 (8635.4; \$8.50)
Building Approvals, SA, September 1990 (8731.4; \$8.50)
Tourist Accommodation, Tas., June Qtr 1990 (8635.6; \$8.50)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Vic., September 1990 (9303.2; \$6.00)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, September 1990 (9303.3; \$5.50)
Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., September 1990 (9303.6; \$3.30)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 20 November 1990

November

- 7** Consumer Price Index, September Quarter 1990 (6401.0; \$10.00)
- 8** The Labour Force, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)
The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, October 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)
- 12** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, June Quarter 1990 Survey (5626.0; \$8.50)
Retail Trade, Australia, September 1990 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- 15** Average Weekly Earnings, Australia, August 1990, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)
- 20** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, September 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)

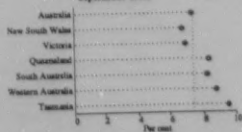
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
6 November 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (March qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (August 90) (trend estimate)	6.0	0.3	4.5	5.2	5.1	7.6	n.a.	9.7	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (September 90)†	1.6	-25.6	16.5	-0.5	-8.1	14.1	-5.5	-33.7	-6.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (September 90)	-15.7	-28.8	-10.9	0.3	-20.1	-7.0	63.5	-32.4	-16.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.5
Employed persons (September 90)*	0.9	-0.3	2.9	-0.5	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	0.9
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 90)	8.1	7.8	6.6	4.7	8.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	7.7
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 90)	7.3	7.1	5.6	6.9	4.6	6.3	5.6	6.3	6.6
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	7.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (March qtr 90)	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-1.3	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
September 1990



Key national indicators – consolidated to 6 November 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
	— 1984-85 prices		62,511	64,362	-0.9	1.0
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m June qtr 90	6,990	6,657	-5.3	-9.3
	— 1984-85 prices		5,288	5,030	-4.6	-12.7
Expected new capital expenditure		" Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover	— current prices	" August 90	6,986	7,180	2.5	6.0
	— 1984-85 prices	" June qtr 90	14,300	14,796	-0.3	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations		" September 90	50,418	50,872	8.6	-6.3
Dwelling unit approvals		" September 90	10,354	10,527	-3.7	-15.6
Value of all building approvals		" September 90	1,822	1,951	6.0	-18.4
Value of total building work done		" June qtr 90	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
	— current prices	" June qtr 90	4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
	— 1984-85 prices	" June qtr 90	35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Manufacturers' sales		" Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Expected manufacturers' sales		"				
Labour						
Employed persons (f)		'000 September 90	7,925.5	7,878.9	-0.2	0.9
Unemployment rate † (f)		" "	7.3	7.4	0.1	1.3
Participation rate † (f)		" "	64.2	63.9	-0.1	0.4
Job vacancies		'000 August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours "	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index (e)	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 90	207.4	n.a.	1.6	7.7
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	August 90	122.4	n.a.	5.2	2.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	August 90	109.6	n.a.	0.9	5.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 90	534.10	n.a.	1.8	6.6
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	September 90	13.55	n.a.	-0.20	-4.8
10-year Treasury bonds †			13.65	n.a.	0.15	0.0
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	September 90	3,879	4,043	-1.5	-0.2
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,809	4,067	2.6	10.9
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	70	-24	66.2	95.3
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-336	-295	39.0	66.4
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,512	-1,549	2.0	23.8
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 90	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 June 90	122,770	n.a.	-2.0	11.7
Net foreign liabilities			160,315	n.a.	-1.3	10.4
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per \$A	September 90	0.8249	n.a.	2.0	6.8
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0		61.6	n.a.	0.3	1.7
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Overseas visitors	'000	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 7 November 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 8 November 1990.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.
 Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).
 Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.
 The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

